

## State Injury Indicators



### Firearm-Related Fatalities

Category:	Firearm-Related Indicators
Demographic Group:	All residents.
Numerator:	Deaths with any of the following ICD-10 codes as an underlying cause of death: W32-W34 (Exposure to inanimate mechanical forces-firearm discharge), X72-X74 (Intentional self-harm by firearm discharge), X93-X95 (Assault by firearm discharge), Y22-Y24 (Firearm discharge of undetermined intent), Y35.0 (Legal intervention involving firearm discharge), *U01.4 (Terrorism involving firearms).
Denominator:	Midyear population for the calendar year under surveillance.
Measures of Frequency:	Annual number of deaths. Annual mortality rate—crude and age-adjusted (standardized by the direct method to the year 2000 standard U.S. population).
Period for Case Definition:	Calendar year.
Background:	Firearm-related injuries were the second leading cause of injury-related death in the United States, accounting for about 29,500 deaths in 2004.* Nationally, the firearm-related death rate for males is almost seven times higher than that of females.**
Limitations of Indicator:	Injuries severe enough to result in death represent only a small proportion of the overall burden of injury. An evaluation of only these injuries may not present an accurate picture of the causes of less-severe injuries.
Data Resources:	Death certificate data from vital statistics agencies (numerator) and population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau or suitable alternative (denominator).
Limitations of Data Resources:	The accuracy of indicators based on codes found in vital statistics data is limited by the completeness and quality of coding. The overall completeness of external cause coding on death data is uniformly high. Coding criteria specify that all cases of injury death must contain an injury code in the underlying-cause-of-death field.
Healthy People 2010 Objectives:	15-3: Reduce firearm-related deaths
CDC's Health Protection Goals:	Healthy People in Every Stage of Life: Achieve Healthy Independence Healthy People in Every Stage of Life: Live a Healthy, Productive, and Satisfying Life Healthy People in Healthy Places: Healthy Communities Healthy People in Healthy Places: Hea

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. (2005) [cited 2006 Dec 7]. Available from URL: [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars). \*\*Gotsch KE, Annett JL, Mercy JA, Ryan GW. Surveillance for fatal and nonfatal firearm-related injuries--United States, 1993-1998. In: CDC surveillance summaries; 2001 Apr 13. MMWR 2001;50 (No. SS-2). [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars)